What is Claimed:

1. A method of providing information using an information appliance coupled to a server at a location remote from the information appliance, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing text files in a database at the remote location;

(b) converting, at the remote location, the text files stored in step (a) into speech files;

(c) receiving a request for a portion of the speech files converted in step (b);

(d) transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the speech files requested in step (c); and

(e) receiving and presenting the speech files transmitted in step (d) through audio speakers.

2. The method of claim 1 in which step (e) includes receiving and presenting speech files of one of electronic program guide (EPG) information, weather information and news information.

3. The method of claim 1 in which

step (a) includes storing EPG text files,

step (b) includes converting the EPG text files into EPG speech files,

step (c) includes receiving a request for the EPG text files, and

step (e) includes reformatting the EPG text files into a page of text and presenting the page of text on a television monitor; and

the method including the following additional steps:

(f) receiving an indication of a location on the page of text; and

(g) transmitting, from the remote location to the information appliance, a portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the received location indication.

4. The method of claim 3 in which the page of text includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times and at least one legend inserted in a grid; and

step (f) includes receiving an indication of a location in the grid; and

step (g) includes first transmitting speech files of the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times and then separately transmitting speech files of the legend in the grid location indicated in step (f).

5. The method of claim 1 in which step (b) includes converting the text files into speech files using a first text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer and a second TTS synthesizer, whereby the first TTS synthesizer and the second TTS synthesizer use different languages.

6. The method of claim 1 in which step (b) includes receiving a selection of one of multiple voice personalities, and converting the text files into speech files using the selected voice personality.

7. The method of claim 1 in which step (e) includes storing received speech files in a memory device of the information appliance, and

extracting from the memory and presenting portions of the received speech files in response to the received request.

8. The method of claim 1 in which step (e) includes buffering received speech files in a buffer of the information appliance, and presenting the buffered speech files through the audio speakers.

9. The method of claim 1 including

(f) presenting set-up configurations sequentially through the audio speaker;

(g) pausing the audio presented in step (f) between each set-up configuration; and

(h) waiting a predetermined time period during each pause to receive an input command.

10. The method of claim 1 in which step (d) includes transmitting to the information appliance the portion of speech files at a periodic interval of time, and

step (e) includes storing the transmitted portion of speech files in a memory device of the information appliance.

11. A method of providing electronic program guide (EPG) information using a communications network, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing EPG text data in a server;

(b) converting the EPG text data into EPG audio data;

(c) transmitting the EPG audio data and the EPG text data through the network;

(d) receiving from the network, by a set top box (STB), at least the EPG audio data;

(e) processing the EPG audio data in the STB; and

(f) sequentially presenting the EPG audio data through an audio speaker.

12. The method of claim 11 in which step (d) includes receiving the EPG audio data at periodic time intervals.

13. The method of claim 11 in which step (f) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel, a time, and a legend corresponding to the channel and time;

pausing the announcement through the audio speakers; and

presenting by announcing at least another channel, time, and legend immediately after pausing the announcement.

14. The method of claim 11 in which step (f) includes presenting the EPG audio data by announcing at least a channel; and the method including the following additional step:

(g) selecting the channel for one of listening and viewing.

15. An audio enabled data service system, including an information appliance comprising:

a memory device;

a modem adapted to connect to a network;

a processor coupled to the modem for (a) communicating on the network, (b) receiving speech files from the network, and (c) storing the speech files in the memory device;

a receiver for accepting input commands from a remote control;

an audio speaker; and

the processor responsive to the input commands accepted by the receiver for (a) extracting a portion of the speech files stored in the memory device and (b) sending the extracted portion of the speech files to the audio speaker.

16. The audio enabled data service system of claim 15 including

a server coupled to the network;

wherein the server includes a storage device for storing electronic program guide (EPG) text files, a text-to-speech (TTS) synthesizer for converting the EPG text files into EPG speech files, and a transmitter for transmitting the EPG text files and the EPG speech files onto the network; and

the speech files received by the processor include the EPG speech files.

17. The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 including a television monitor, and a receiver for receiving an input command;

wherein the processor receives the EPG speech files and the EPG text files from the network;

the processor formats the EPG text files into a page of text; and the processor provides the page for display on the television monitor;

the receiver receiving an input command which provides an identifier for identifying a location on the page displayed on the television monitor; and

the processor, in response to the identifier, extracts a portion of the EPG speech files corresponding to the identified location on the page, and sends the corresponding portion of EPG speech to the audio speaker.

18. The audio enabled data service system of claim 17 wherein the page includes at least one date, multiple channels, multiple times, and at least one legend inserted in a grid;

the identifier identifies the grid on the page; and

the portion of EPG speech extracted by the processor includes the legend inserted in the grid.

19. The audio enabled data service system of claim 18 wherein the processor receives the EPG speech files in response to a download request from the server; and

the download request includes a first download request for the at least one date, multiple channels and multiple times, and a second download request for the legend inserted in the grid.

20. The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes a synthesizer using one of a first language and a second language, whereby the first language is different from the second language.

21. The audio enabled data service system of claim 16 wherein the TTS synthesizer includes multiple voice personalities for converting the EPG text files into EPG speech files; and

the TTS synthesizer selects one of the multiple voice personalities, in response to an input command from the remote control.